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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/717,461

11/21/2003

Kjell-Tore Smith

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EXAMINER

GELLNER, JEFFREY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3643

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

04/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,461

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey L. Gellner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of certified copy of Norway 2003-34475 filed 6 Oct. 2003 submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 from Smith et al.

The declaration filed on 6 September 2006 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Hoffman et al. (US 6,884,307 B1) reference. All rejections using Hoffman et al. are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 17, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newman et al. (Munitions Tech. Symp., 1997; 3rd document on 2nd page of Applicants' SB-80A received 11 Feb. 2004) in view of Rothenstein et al. (US 4,163,681).

As to claim 1, Newman et al. disclose a composition of an explosive with RDX Type II at 88-96% (Table 1 of 2nd page of article), a poly acrylic elastomer (Table 1 of 2nd of article), and a plasticizer (Table 1 of 2nd of article). Not disclosed is the RDX being Type I and the RDX

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having a portion of coarse crystals with avg. size 50 to 250 microns and a portion of finer crystals with an avg. size of 2 to 30 microns. Rothenstein et al, however, the use of RDX crystals with a portion having a size of 130 microns (col. 5 lines 35-40, col. 7 lines 15-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the composition of Newman et al. by using an RDX blend as disclosed by Rothenstein et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claims 2, 7, 23, and 24, Newman et al. disclose a composition of an explosive with RDX Type II at 88-96% (Table 1 of 2nd page of article) which would contain HMX at up to 14%, a poly acrylic elastomer (Table 1 of 2nd of article), and a plasticizer (Table 1 of 2nd of article). Not disclosed is the RDX having a portion of coarse crystals with avg. size 50 to 250 microns and a portion of finer crystals with an avg. size of 2 to 30 microns. Rothenstein et al, however, the use of RDX crystals with a portion having a size of 130 microns (col. 5 lines 35-40, col. 7 lines 15-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the composition of Newman et al. by using an RDX blend as disclosed by Rothenstein et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 3 depending upon claims 1 or 2, Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. further disclose the explosive at 90-94% (Table 1 of 2nd page of article of Newman et al.).

As to claim 5 depending upon claims 1 or 2, the limitations of claims 1 or 2 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the RDX coarse portion being 25 to 75%. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by having the coarse portion

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being 25 to 75% so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 6 depending upon claims 1 or 2, Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. further disclose the elastomer being HyTemp 454 (Table 1 of 2nd page of article of Newman et al.) and the plasticizer being DOA (Table 1 of 2nd page of article of Newman et al.).

As to claim 17, Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. further disclose the explosive at 91-93% (from "94-2%" of Table 1 of 2nd page of article of Newman et al.).

As to claims 21 and 22, the limitations of claim 5 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the RDX coarse portion being 35 to 65% or 44 to 56%. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by having the coarse portion being 35 to 65% or 44 to 56% so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

Claims 4, 8-16, 18-20, and 25-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newman et al. (Munitions Tech. Symp., 1997; 3rd document on 2nd page of Applicants' SB-80A received 11 Feb. 2004) in view of Rothenstein et al. (US 4,163,681) in further view of Svensson et al. (US 4,638,065).

As to claim 4 depending upon claims 1 or 2, the limitations of claims 1 or 2 are disclosed as described above. Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. further disclose the RDX coarse portion with an avg. size of 60 to 170 microns ("130 microns" of col. 5 lines 35-40, col. 7 lines 15-19). Not disclosed is the fine portion having an avg. size of 5 to 20 microns.

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Svensson et al., however, discloses RDX with an avg. size of 5 microns (from “5-50” of col. 4 line 1 and col. 4 lines 15-16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by using 5 micron RDX as disclosed by Svensson et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 8, the limitations of claim 2 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the fine portion having an avg. size of 2 to 30 microns. Svensson et al., however, discloses RDX with an avg. size of 5 microns (from “5-50” of col. 4 line 1 and col. 4 lines 15-16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by using 5 micron RDX as disclosed by Svensson et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 18, the limitations of claim 4 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the coarse portion at 60 to 90 microns and the fine portion at 5 to 20 microns. Svensson et al., however, discloses RDX with an avg. size 60 to 90 microns (from col. 4 example 1 and lines 15-16) and of 5 microns (from “5-50” of col. 4 line 1 and col. 4 lines 15-16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by using RDX avg. sizes as disclosed by Svensson et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 19, the limitations of claim 4 are disclosed as described above. Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. further disclose the RDX coarse portion with an avg. size of

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60 to 170 microns ("130 microns" of col. 5 lines 35-40, col. 7 lines 15-19). Not disclosed is the fine portion having an avg. size of 12 to 18 microns. Svensson et al., however, discloses RDX with an avg. size of 10 microns (from col. 4 example 3 and col. 4 lines 15-16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by using RDX avg. sizes as disclosed by Svensson et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 20, the limitations of claim 4 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the coarse portion at 60 to 90 microns and the fine portion at 12 to 18 microns. Svensson et al., however, discloses RDX with an avg. size of 70 microns (from col. 4 example 1 and lines 15-16) and of 10 microns (col. 4 example 3 and col. 4 lines 15-16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. by using RDX avg. sizes as disclosed by Svensson et al. so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claim 25, the limitations of claim 8 are disclosed as described above. Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein and Svensson et al. further disclose HMX crystals from 5 to 20 microns (col. 4 example 3 of Svensson et al.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. and Svensson et al. by having the HMX crystals a particular avg. size so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

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As to claim 26, the limitations of claim 8 are disclosed as described above. Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein and Svensson et al. further disclose HMX crystals from 8 to 14 microns (col. 4 example 3 of Svensson et al.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the composition of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. and Svensson et al. by having the HMX crystals a particular avg. size so as to control such characteristics as burn rate by controlling surface area of the fuel/oxidizer.

As to claims 9-16 and 27-35, Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. and Svensson et al. disclose the explosive composition as described above. Svensson et al. further disclose an RDX fine portion at 12 to 18 microns ((from "5-50" of col. 4 line 1 and col. 4 lines 15-16). MPEP 2113 Product-by-Process claims state that "[i]f the product in the product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior art product was made by a different process." Here, the explosive composition made in water-slurry process is obvious in light of Newman et al. as modified by Rothenstein et al. and Svensson et al. (as stated in the other rejections in the instant office action) since the explosive composition is not a patentable distinction.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6 September 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' argument is that the Declaration of Smith et al. swears behind the

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Hoffman et al. reference (Remarks page 2). Examiner has used other art because Hoffman et al. does not possess a proper date.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey L. Gellner whose telephone number is 571.272.6887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on 571.272.6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jeffrey L. Gellner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643